



23 February 2023

SYDWEST PUBLISHES 2023/24 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

SydWest Multicultural Services has today published its submission to the Albanese Government on the issues they should consider when finalising the Commonwealth's 2023/2024 Budget which they will hand down in May this year.

While recognising the need for fiscal restraint in this budget cycle which is essential, SydWest Chief Executive Officer, Ms Elfa Moraitakis emphasised there was still a great need for the Australian Government to undertake crucial spending to aid and support vulnerable migrant and refugee communities; as they continue to deal with and recover from the worst of the COVID pandemic.

"A primary focus of this budget must be addressing cost-of-living pressures that provides immediate financial relief, particularly with rising rental costs and some concessions for skilled workers finding it difficult to gain employment" said Ms Moraitakis.

The submission by SydWest to the Commonwealth reports that some two-thirds of its clients are spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent with examples of households having less than \$250 available each week after paying rent.

"These communities are even more vulnerable during an economic downturn than they would be otherwise. The current inflationary impacts and cost pressures are just making things so much worse" added Ms Moraitakis.

The submission to the Commonwealth is also arguing for proposed budget measures that will address specific problems migrants and refugee communities experience in areas of employment, mental health, and women and the general cost pressures faced by organisations like SydWest in delivering the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) and the Commonwealth's Home Care Programs.

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) peoples make up almost half of Australia's population, however CALD specific budget measures to better support them were proportionally lower in the 2022/2023 budget.

To read the submission in full here, please see [PDF SydWestMS Commonwealth Pre Budget Submission 2023-2024 Treasury.pdf](#)

STATEMENT ENDS /



Media Enquiries:

For further information or to arrange photo opportunities or interviews, contact Vikki Hine, Media and Events, SydWest Multicultural Services on vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au or 0428-109-215.

Follow us on:

- Twitter (@SydWestMS)
- LinkedIn (SydWest Multicultural Services)
- Facebook (@sydwestms)
- Instagram (@sydwestmulticulturalservices)

SydWest Multicultural Services is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities. Established nearly 40 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent. With locations in Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Rouse Hill, we cover all matters of cultural diversity in the region.